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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 830
By Kernell

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mrs. Lorene Thomas of
Memphis.

WHEREAS, it was with deep sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of our state learned of the death of Mrs. Lorene Thomas, of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Lorene Thomas, leaves behind a legacy of love and laughter shared with her legendary husband, Rufus Thomas, who is one of the best and most influential rhythm and blues artists of his generation; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Thomas was eighty years old when the Good Lord called her to Glory; and

WHEREAS, understanding, compassionate, supportive and friendly, she made many sacrifices to enable her family members to shine in the spotlight as all her children followed in their father's musical footsteps; and

WHEREAS, she was a retired nurse who had been honored by the National Association for the Advancement for Colored People for 40 years of faithful membership; and

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WHEREAS, Mrs. Thomas served as the correspondence secretary of the local NAACP for over 25 years, and was instrumental in many successful membership drives; and

WHEREAS, as a dedicated civil rights activist, Mrs. Thomas participated in picket lines, voter registration, and fund-raisers; and

WHEREAS, she was serving on the NAACP board when retired Criminal Court Judge H.T. Lockard was president in the 1950s; he described her as "a tireless worker"; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian who stayed strong and steadfast in the Word of God, Lorene Thomas was a member of New Salem Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, the legacy she leaves behind will be remembered and treasured by friends and associates for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, she is survived by her husband, Rufus Thomas; son, Marvell Thomas; daughters, Carla Thomas and Vaneese Warnceke; and one grandchild; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to remember the exemplary life of this fine Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we express our deepest regret at the death of Lorene Thomas, an exemplary community leader, devoted wife and mother and loyal friend, and extend our condolences to her family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.